

REMARKS

Claims 13-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

On February 24, 2004, the U.S. Board of Appeals and Interferences issued a Decision on Appeal in the present application, reversing the rejection of claims 13-19. In the Decision, the Board draws the Applicant's attention to 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) and suggests that the application be amended accordingly. In view of the Board's suggestions, Applicant hereby amends the present application to provide antecedent basis for certain terms and/or phrases used in the claims. This amendment conforms to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1), is not made for patentability reasons, and no new matter has been added.

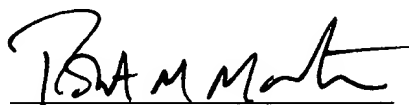
In view of the Board's Decision on Appeal and the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the application and claims are in condition for allowance. In view of the prior request that an interference be declared, Applicant request that this interference be declared. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO
THE DECISION ON APPEAL
USSN: 08/898,853

Q45980

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R M Masters", written over a horizontal line.

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